

AMENDMENT

Please amend the claims as follows, without prejudice:

In the claims:

1-34. (Cancelled)

35. (New) A composition of matter, which comprises in admixture;

N-acetylcysteine, N-acetyl-d-glucosamine and vitamin C whereby the amount of vitamin C is in an amount of at least 1000 mg. or greater to facilitate the absorption of N-acetylcysteine across the cellular membrane; and, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier for oral administration.

36. (New) The systemic administration of a pharmaceutically effective amount of the composition according to claim 35 to a mammal suffering from low glutathione levels, to stimulate the natural production of glutathione in the biologically active cells of the mammal and reduce symptoms of diseases caused by excess unneutralized free radicals.

37. (New) The systemic administration according to claim 36, wherein the disease is a member of the group consisting of pulmonary oxygen toxicity, adult respiratory distress syndrome, broncopulmonary dysplasia, sepsis syndrome, Parkinson's disease, encephalitis, endotoxemia, anoxia induced neuronal damage, ischemic reperfusion injury, inflammatory diseases, systemic lupus erythematosus, myocardial infarction, stroke, traumatic hemorrhage, spinal cord trauma, Crohn's disease, rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes, cataract formation, uvetis, emphysema, gastric ulcers, oxygen toxicity, neoplasia, undesired cell apoptosis, and radiation sickness.

38. (New) The composition of claim 35 further comprising a probiotic, said probiotic for promoting the breakdown and absorption of nutrients, the elimination of toxins and to inhibit the

growth of harmful bacteria in the gastrointestinal tract, thereby facilitating the absorption of N-acetylcysteine into the gastrointestinal tract.

39. (New) The composition of claim 38, wherein said probiotic is a composition of "healthy bacteria" containing one or more of said healthy bacteria selected from the group comprising *Bifidobacterium longum*, *Bifidobacterium infantis*, *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus casei*, *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*, *Saccharomyces boulardi*, *Propionibacteria* and *Enterococci*.

40. (New) A method of promoting the biosynthesis of mucosal glycoproteins and/or facilitating the absorption of N-acetylcysteine into a gastrointestinal tract of a mammal, comprising the step of administering the composition of claim 35.